

The New Jersey Department of Human Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities

1

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE
(COVID-19)

UPDATE FOR FAMILIES AND
PROVIDERS

September 23, 2021



Agenda

2

- COVID-19 Statistics
- October Webinar
- Executive Order 252
- COVID-19 Vaccine
- Visitation
- Day Services Funding Increases
- Support Coordination Rate Increase Update
- NJ 1115 NJ FamilyCare Comprehensive Demonstration Renewal
- Behavioral Health Stabilization Homes
- Resources

New Jersey COVID-19 Current Statistics*

3

State of New Jersey	
Positive	988,710
Deaths	24,467

**This update is as of Tuesday, September 21, 2021.*

For regular updates: <https://covid19.nj.gov/>

Consider downloading COVID Alert NJ on your Apple or Android smartphone:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/app>



DDD Specific COVID-19 Statistics*

4

	Community		Developmental Centers	Total
	Licensed	Own Home		
Positive	1,967	703	695	3,365
Deaths	117	60	41	218

DDD-specific statistics are updated weekly. Community data includes individuals **actively under DDD services in settings such as group homes, supervised apartments, out of state, and own-home settings.*

Full detail, including data for individuals not under services for whom reporting is voluntary and provided for informational purposes only, can be found at [NJ Department of Human Services COVID-19 Information](#).

COVID-19 Update Webinar Schedule

5

- October Update webinar:
 - Thursday October 14, 2021 – 10:30 am
- [Register for October webinar](#)

Executive Order 252

6

- On August 6, 2021, the Murphy Administration issued Executive Order (EO) 252.
- This EO required that staff working in targeted high-risk congregate settings be vaccinated by September 7, 2021 or submit to COVID-19 testing a minimum of once or twice per week.

Executive Order 252

7

- The compliance date of September 7, 2021 has passed.
- At this time, the Division is not tracking severe impacts to staffing levels due to this requirement.
- Agencies are reporting increased vaccination levels amongst staff.
- The Division has, and will continue to, closely monitor impacts this may have on the service system and thanks all for their compliance.

COVID-19 Vaccine

8

- **Pfizer-BioNTech**

- On Friday, September 17, the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (FDA VRBPAC) recommended an emergency use authorization (EUA) to provide a Pfizer booster dose at least 6 months after the primary series to Pfizer vaccine recipients who are 65 or older or are at high risk of severe Covid-19.
- Following the FDA's final authorization, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will meet and issue recommendations and guidance on the use and eligibility of the booster shot.

COVID-19 Vaccine

9

- Moderna and Johnson & Johnson
 - Data on boosters for the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines is still being provided to the FDA and ACIP.
- Once the NJDOH receives and evaluates the FDA and ACIP recommendations, more information on Pfizer-BioNTech boosters, and others, will be released.

Visitation

10

- The Division wishes to reinforce that there have been **no** changes to visitation standards for residents of congregate residential settings.
- Residential Visitation Guidance released on July 29, 2021 remains in place.
- Agencies are required to follow this guidance, allowing on-site and off-site visits per the parameters outlined therein.

Day Services Funding Increase

11

- The Division anticipates that the day services rate increase will take effect October 1, 2021. Increases will apply to:
 - Career Planning
 - Community Inclusion Services
 - Day Habilitation
 - Pre-Vocational Training Individual and Group
 - Supported Employment Individual and Group

Day Services Funding Increase

12

- The total 27.5M funding provided to increase day service rates is one time and not annualized into the Division's base budget.
- 15M will be built into the impacted service rates **claimed by providers through Gainwell.**
- The remaining 12.5M will be paid via an offline payment each month based on actual services claimed.
- The Division is previewing these rates today.

Day Services Funding Increase

13

<u>Service</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Current Through September 30, 2021</u>	<u>Reflected in Gainwell Rate Claimed (\$15M)</u>	<u>Reflected in Offline Payment (12.5M)</u>
Career Planning	Career Planning	\$ 14.25	\$ 15.55	\$ 16.63
Community Inclusion Services	Tier A	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.87	\$ 3.07
Community Inclusion Services	Tier B	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.91
Community Inclusion Services	Tier C	\$ 4.14	\$ 4.52	\$ 4.83
Community Inclusion Services	Tier D	\$ 6.14	\$ 6.70	\$ 7.16
Community Inclusion Services	Tier E	\$ 8.15	\$ 8.89	\$ 9.51
Community Inclusion Services	Tier F	\$ 12.22	\$ 13.33	\$ 14.26

Day Services Funding Increase

14

<u>Service</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Current Through September 30, 2021</u>	<u>Reflected in Gainwell Rate Claimed (\$15M)</u>	<u>Reflected in Offline Payment (12.5M)</u>
Day Habilitation	Tier A	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.87	\$ 3.07
Day Habilitation	Tier A/Acuity Differentiated	\$ 3.75	\$ 4.10	\$ 4.38
Day Habilitation	Tier B	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.91
Day Habilitation	Tier B/Acuity Differentiated	\$ 4.78	\$ 5.22	\$ 5.58
Day Habilitation	Tier C	\$ 4.14	\$ 4.52	\$ 4.83
Day Habilitation	Tier C/Acuity Differentiated	\$ 5.92	\$ 6.46	\$ 6.91
Day Habilitation	Tier D	\$ 6.14	\$ 6.70	\$ 7.16
Day Habilitation	Tier D/Acuity Differentiated	\$ 8.77	\$ 9.57	\$ 10.24
Day Habilitation	Tier E	\$ 8.15	\$ 8.89	\$ 9.51
Day Habilitation	Tier E/Acuity Differentiated	\$ 11.64	\$ 12.70	\$ 13.58
Day Habilitation	Tier F	\$ 12.22	\$ 13.33	\$ 14.26
Day Habilitation	Tier F/Acuity Differentiated	\$ 17.46	\$ 19.05	\$ 20.38

Day Services Funding Increase

15

<u>Service</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Current Through September 30, 2021</u>	<u>Reflected in Gainwell Rate Claimed (\$15M)</u>	<u>Reflected in Offline Payment (12.5M)</u>
Prevocational Training	Tier A - Group	\$ 2.97	\$ 3.23	\$ 3.46
Prevocational Training	Tier B - Group	\$ 3.78	\$ 4.12	\$ 4.41
Prevocational Training	Tier C - Group	\$ 4.67	\$ 5.10	\$ 5.45
Prevocational Training	Tier D - Group	\$ 6.93	\$ 7.56	\$ 8.09
Prevocational Training	Tier E - Group	\$ 9.19	\$ 10.03	\$ 10.73
Prevocational Training	Prevoc Individual	\$ 13.79	\$ 15.04	\$ 16.09
Supported Employment	Tier A - Group	\$ 3.39	\$ 3.70	\$ 3.95
Supported Employment	Tier B - Group	\$ 4.32	\$ 4.71	\$ 5.04
Supported Employment	Tier C - Group	\$ 5.34	\$ 5.82	\$ 6.23
Supported Employment	Tier D - Group	\$ 7.91	\$ 8.63	\$ 9.24
Supported Employment	Tier E - Group	\$ 10.50	\$ 11.46	\$ 12.25
Supported Employment	SE Individual	\$ 15.75	\$ 17.18	\$ 18.38

Day Services Funding Increase

16

- At this time, State Supplemental Payments will continue, but the calculation will adjust.
- More detail on the new Day Service rates and payment calculation will be released shortly. This will include posting on the DMAHS and DDD websites.

Support Coordination Rate Increase

17

- The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) is awaiting CMS approval of the American Rescue Plan proposal.
- This is the request that includes the rate increase for Support Coordination.
- Once that is received more information will be provided on the rate and date of implementation.

1115 NJ FamilyCare Comprehensive Demonstration Renewal

18

- New Jersey 1115 Medicaid Comprehensive Demonstration (formerly Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver) governs operations of significant components of the state Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Due to expire June 30, 2022.
- NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) will submit its renewal application to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Fall 2021.
- Stakeholders and advocates can view and comment on the [Draft Renewal Proposal](#).

1115 NJ FamilyCare Comprehensive Demonstration Renewal

19

- Areas DDD has proposed in the renewal are:
 - Flexibilities to reduce churning between MLTSS and DDD programs (allow longer rehab nursing home stays for DDD members).
 - Earlier eligibility for 18+ members outside of educational entitlement.
 - Greater flexibility and support during transition to waiver programs.
 - Allow certain waiver services to be provided during inpatient hospital stay.
 - Enhanced respite benefit for individuals in “Supports + PDN.”

1115 NJ FamilyCare Comprehensive Demonstration Renewal

20

- DMAHS is holding an 1115 Renewal Public Hearing via webinar on Monday, **September 27, 2021 at 9:30 am.**
 - ✦ [Register here for the 9/27 Public Hearing Webinar](#)
- Comments or inquiries must be submitted in writing by COB, October 11, 2021 and can be sent as follows:

Email: DMAHS.CMWcomments@dhs.nj.gov | Fax: 609-588-7343

Mail: Margaret Rose
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services
Office of Legal and Regulatory Affairs
P.O. Box 712, Mail Code #26
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0712

Please note that comments will continue to be accepted after October 11, 2021, but DHS may not be able to consider those comments prior to initial submission to CMS.



1115 NJ FamilyCare Comprehensive Demonstration Renewal

21

- The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities has developed a guide booklet with information for individuals about providing input and sharing their vision for the future and how they would like supports and services to help them achieve the life they want.
- Download the guide here:

[Sharing Your Vision in Advocacy: Providing Stakeholder Input](#)

Behavioral Health Stabilization Homes

22

- Earlier this year, DDD released a Request for Proposals for Behavioral Health Stabilization Homes.
- Opening in Fall 2022, the homes will offer stabilization for persons with I/DD who are experiencing significant behaviors or behavior crises.
- The homes will not replace in-patient hospitalization when medically indicated but will help prevent hospitalization for some and will help provide a hospital discharge option to a safe and professional environment for others.

Behavioral Health Stabilization Homes

23

- Three homes will be developed - one each in northern, central, and southern New Jersey.
- Treatment team assigned to the homes will consist of a Board Certified Psychiatrist, Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Registered Nurse (RN) and Transition Navigator, who will bring a person-centered, trauma-informed approach to service delivery.
- Each home will have specially trained Direct Therapeutic Staff and Behavioral Intervention Specialists

Behavioral Health Stabilization Homes

24

- The contract for these homes has been awarded to YAI, Inc., a nonprofit provider that has been providing services for people with I/DD and their families for more than 35 years.
- This agency offers a wide range of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families throughout downstate New York, northern New Jersey, and California.
- Those services include supportive housing, employment training, crisis support, and assistive technology.

Behavioral Health Stabilization Homes

25

- In 2016, YAI began working closely with the national Center for START Services. START (Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources, and Treatment) is an evidence-based, solutions-focused approach to crisis intervention for people with I/DD and mental health needs, which YAI expects to use as they develop the New Jersey homes.

Important Resources

26

- Disability Rights New Jersey
 - 1-800-922-7233 (toll-free in New Jersey only)
- Ombudsman for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their Families
 - 1-609-984-7764
- New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities
 - 1-800-792-8858

Important Resources

27

- For assistance during this time:
 - For issues, call the Division Community Services office for your county or 1 (800) 832-9173.
 - When calling, you will be connected with the Division's answering service who will take information about the circumstance and have a Division staff person reach out.
 - For routine questions: DDD.FeeForService@dhs.nj.gov
 - For COVID-related questions: DDD.COVID-19@dhs.nj.gov
 - To report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation: call 1 (800) 832-9173, then press 1.

Highlighted Resources

28

- For individuals, families and caregivers
 - [Boggs Center COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)
 - [COVID-19 Materials for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Care Providers](#)
- For individuals:
 - NJ Self-Advocacy Project's [Stay Healthy at Home Webinar Series](#)
- For Direct Support Professionals
 - [National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals \(NADSP\) COVID-19 Toolkit for DSPs](#)
 - [CDC Guidance for Direct Service Providers](#)

